

Application No. 10/655,566

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 15, 16 and 19 are amended. Support for the present amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the phone conversation of April 28, 2006, in which, U.S. Patent No. 5,329,787 to Friday was discussed. Specifically, discussion was had regarding the secondary space disclosed by Friday and its relevance to the pending claims. The present amendments to claims 1, 11, 15, 16 and 19 are made in conformance with said discussion.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-10 were rejected in the Final Office Action mailed March 3, 2006 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0017411 to Weiss et al. in view of Friday. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and respectfully asserts that the combination of Weiss et al. and Friday not only failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the previously pending independent claim 1 but that the suggested combination failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for previously pending dependent claims 7, 8 and 9 as will be discussed below. However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 in conformance with the April 28, 2006 phone conversation with the Examiner to further clarify the claimed invention as not only having an item storage portion and component mounting portion that are sealably separated but also that the component mounting portion is hand accessible for mounting the drive and steering assemblies within the component mounting portion.

As stated in the Final Office Action mailed March 3, 2006, the Weiss et al. reference fails to provide a separate compartment for the drive and steering mechanisms. Instead, the Final

Application No. 10/655,566

Office Action refers to the Friday reference as disclosing a secondary space separate from the main storage compartment. However, as Applicant's representative discussed with the Examiner, the Friday reference fails to disclose a selectively removable loading floor and the secondary space of Friday certainly lacks any disclosure suggesting or teaching that this secondary space is hand accessible (either with a removable loading floor as claimed in claim 9 or in a side accessible configuration as claimed in claim 8) for mounting steering and drive assemblies. As the Friday reference fails to teach or suggest a hand accessible secondary space, the proposed combination of Weiss et al. and Friday fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection to claims 1-10 be withdrawn.

Claims 11-17 and 19-23 were rejected in the Final Office Action mailed March 3, 2006 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiss et al. in view of Friday as applied to claims 1-10, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,964,265 to Young. In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 11, 15, 16 and 19 in conformance with the April 28, 2006 phone conversation with the Examiner. Similarly to claim 1 discussed above, claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the loading portion is sealingly separated from the component mounting and that the component mounting portion is hand accessible for mounting the thrust and turning means within the component mounting portion. Claim 19 has been amended to clarify that the mounting space is sealingly separated from the storage space and that the mounting space is hand accessible.

For the reasons discussed previously, the Friday reference fails to disclose a secondary space that is hand accessible for mounting drive and steering components. The inclusion of the Young reference fails to cure the afore mentioned deficiencies of Weiss et al. and Friday in that Young simply discloses a remote controlled lawn mower and lacks any suggestion or teaching relative to sealingly separated storage and mounting portions. As such, the combination of

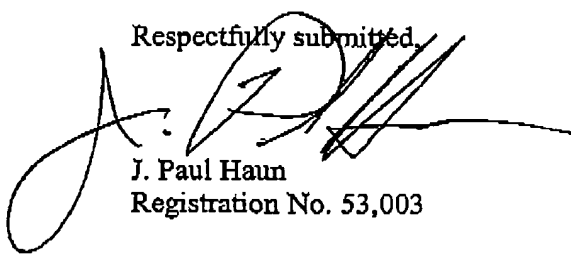
Application No. 10/655,566

Weiss et al, Friday and Young fail to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 11-17 and 19-23 and Applicant respectfully requests said rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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